

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07
NRC-05 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 AID-05 PM-04 H-01
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /120 W
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R 221944Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3904
ERDA HQS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 05423

USEC; USIAEA

DEPT FOR EUR/CAN/ROUSE; T/NYE; OES/NET/NOSENZO
ERDA FOR SIEVERING

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, US, IN, CA
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU/DESAI CONVERSATIONS ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: NEW DELHI 8804 AND 8753

1. SUMMARY: GOC CABINET DECISION PRIOR TO TRUDEAU'S
DEPARTURE FOR COMMONWEALTH MEETING IN LONDON TIED ADDI-
TIONAL AID TO INDIA TO LATTER'S ACCEPTANCE OF FULL SCOPE
SAFEGUARDS. TRUDEAU/DESAI DISCUSSION THUS INCLUDED SAFE-
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GUARDS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION. DESAI EMPHASIZED
GOI NOT INTERESTED IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR PNE AND SUPPORTS
PRINCIPAL OF NON-PROLIFERATION. SAID GOI DOESN'T OBJECT
TO SAFEGUARDS IF NOT INTERFERE WITH DOMESTIC NUCLEAR PRO-
GRAM. TRUDEAU PRESSED POINTS OF A) ASSURANCE AGAINST
FURTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS BY GOI, AND B) VERIFICATION
THAT NO WEAPONS MATERIALS STORED IN INDIA. DESAI GAVE NO

DIRECT ANSWER BUT SAID "CAN'T SEE WHY THIS COULDN'T BE DONE; WE WILL GET TOGETHER WITH YOU." DESAI STATED THAT GOI WILL NOT REPEAT NOT SIGN NPT AS LONG AS OTHERS TESTING. ON POSITIVE NOTE DESAI SAID GOI DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO TRANSFER SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY TO ANYONE. MEETING REPORTED TO BE CORDIAL WITH EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE ON BOTH SIDES OF BEING ABLE TO RESUME NUCLEAR COOPERATION IN FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON 22 JUNE SCICOUNS MET WITH LABERGE OF EXTAFF WHO HAD JUST RECEIVED TEXT OF TRUDEAU/DESAI TALKS IN LONDON AT COMMONWEALTH MEETING. PORTIONS OF TEXT RELATING TO NUCLEAR MATTERS WERE READ TO EMBOFF. SINCE APRIL 1974 GOC AID TO INDIA HAS BEEN LIMITED TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, NUCLEAR AND OTHER FORMS OF AID FROZEN. CIDA HAD HOPED TO EXPAND AID WITH COMMERCIAL LINE OF CREDIT, INDUSTRIAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER AREAS. WHEN MATTER REVIEWED BY CABINET PRIOR TO COMMONWEALTH MEETING, DECISION WAS TO PROVIDE NO ADDITIONAL LAYERS OF AID UNLESS GOI ACCEPTS FULL SCOPE NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS.

3. TRUDEAU DISCUSSED POSITION WITH DESAI BUT PRESUMABLY DID NOT TAKE HARD LINE AS DESAI MUCH MORE AMENABLE THAN PREDECESSOR. TALKS COVERED SAFEGUARDS, NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, AND WEAPONS TESTING. DESAI SAID HE WAS OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS
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(PNE). HE SAID INDIA SUPPORTS NON-PROLIFERATION AND IS NOT TRANSFERRING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO ANYONE.

4. TRUDEAU SAID GOI'S NUCLEAR TEST WAS BASIS OF PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY THE USE OF PLUTONIUM "IN SECRET." DESAI SAID THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WAS NOT NECESSARY AND THAT PREVIOUS PRIME MINISTER OF GOI WANTED TO "SURPRISE AND IMPRESS" OTHERS. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GOI AT FIRST RECEIVED SOME "CREDIT" FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT, IT TURNED OUT IN END TO BE "NO CREDIT." DESAI SAID HE WANTS NO NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, PEACEFUL OR OTHERWISE, IN THE FUTURE AND NO SECRECY.

5. DESAI COMMENTED THAT THE GOI WAS PLEASED THAT CARTER WILLING TO RELEASE URANIUM FOR INDIAN REACTOR AND THAT GOI IS WILLING TO RETURN "WASTES."

6. TRUDEAU ASKED IF GOI PLANNED TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY IN THE FUTURE AND DESAI SAID NO. WHEN ASKED IF GOI CAN ASSURE GOC THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, AND THAT THERE ARE NO EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS IN INDIA, DESAI REPLIED THAT HE CAN'T SEE WHY SUCH ASSURANCES CAN'T

BE GIVEN AND "WE WILL GET TOGETHER WITH YOU."

7. DESAI SAID THE GOI WILL NOT REPEAT NOT SIGN THE NPT AS LONG AS OTHERS ARE TESTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HOWEVER, GOI DOESN'T OBJECT TO SAFEGUARDS AS LONG AS THEY DON'T INTERFERE WITH DOMESTIC PROGRAM.

8. MEETING ENDED ON FRIENDLY NOTE WITH EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ON BOTH SIDES TO RESUME NUCLEAR COOPERATION SOME-TIME IN THE FUTURE.

COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH EXTAFF THAT THERE WERE NO COMMITMENTS BY GOC TO RESUME COOPERATION AND THAT THIS MEETING WAS ONLY A "DOOR OPENING" AFTER A LONG CONFIDENTIAL

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PERIOD OF DEEP FREEZE IN NUCLEAR RELATIONS. A STATEMENT OF CANADIAN NUCLEAR POLICY WAS DELIVERED TO GOI IN DELHI PRIOR TO COMMONWEALTH MEETING. A COPY OF THIS STATEMENT IS BEING SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY POUCH. ENDERS

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